the Alliance Weekly

PACIFIC SCHOOL

OCTOBER 30, 1957

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CHILEAN GIRLS

In this issue

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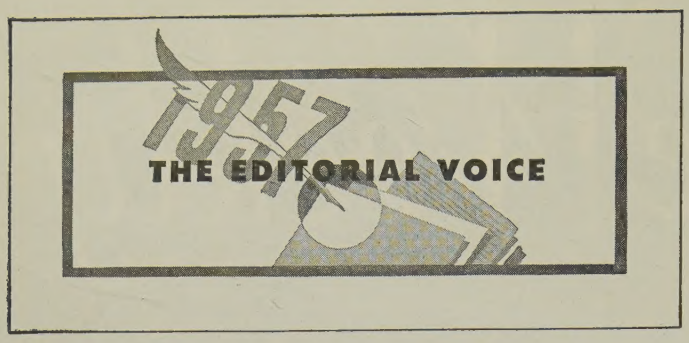

ETERNAL RETRIBUTION A BIBLE DOCTRINE

I believe in eternal retribution. That those who continue impenitent to the end of their earthly lives will be banished from the presence of God forever is a truth as clearly taught in the Scriptures as the fall of man or the resurrection of the dead.

The Bible is an organic unity, one with itself throughout, and must be received *in toto* or *in toto* rejected. I dare not select the parts I want to believe and exclude what disturbs or offends me. That would be to set up my fallible reason as a criterion against which to judge infallible revelation, obviously in itself an unreasonable thing to do.

While it is true that I stand before the Bible to be judged and not the Bible before me; while it is true that I am morally obliged to accept the Holy Scriptures and by the light they afford prepare myself so the Holy Scriptures may accept me, as a serious-minded and responsible thinker I must admit that it is sometimes difficult to know precisely what the Scriptures teach on a given subject. When once we know, we must accept and believe; until we know we can maintain our moral integrity only by admitting our ignorance; and that very ignorance itself obliges us to search the Word in prayerful reverence until the light breaks and our doubts are cleared away.

The doctrine of eternal retribution has been held and taught by an overwhelming majority of Christians since the days of the apostles. Almost all, if not quite all, of the church fathers and of the great doctors and saints down the centuries believed that the Bible teaches that the finally impenitent will be cast into a hell from which there is no escape and with no further opportunity to repent and avail themselves of the mercy of God and the benefits of Christ's atonement. They believed, as the vast majority of Bible-loving Christians today believe, that the personality of the impenitent man is perpetuated beyond the moment of physical death, and that the man must face a strict accounting of deeds done on earth and hear the sentence of doom pronounced against him.

I have read the arguments put forth against this belief and acknowledged the force of them, and though my human heart could welcome any gleam of hope, however faint, that might yet remain for the lost, the Scriptures are too plain to allow that hope to exist.

Frederic W. Farrar, the celebrated dean of Canterbury, pleaded with great moral earnestness and ove powering eloquence for what he called "eternal hope for all men, and like a defense attorney managed t find among the works of the Latin fathers quotation to support that hope. But the weight of evidence on th side of the traditional belief is too great; there can b only one conclusion: the Bible teaches the doctrine c eternal retribution, and every calm, reasonable man wi accept the doctrine; or if he rejects it he will reje the Bible along with it. The man who will not belie in hell must surrender his right to believe in heave

To keep the whole Christian witness in balance w must teach what the Bible teaches about the future c the impenitent. But we should watch over our ow hearts lest, unbeknown to us, we unconsciously welcom the idea of hell as the revenge we take against tho who do not believe as we do. Just as the fear of e communication or purgatory serves to keep the faithf Romanist in line, so it is entirely possible to use th fear of hell to make people knuckle under to th dictatorial pastor or the evangelist trying to fill his quo of converts for the evening.

The idea of hell found in the Scriptures is so fearf that the first impulse of a loving heart is to wish it we not so. But human pity is both a beautiful and dangerous emotion. Unless it is subjected to the sha critique of moral judgment it may, and often does, p our sympathies on the side of the murderer instead on the side of the dead man and the widow and ch dren he has left behind him. Unholy sympathy mov starry-eyed ladies to send flowers to the criminal awaitin execution while the innocent child he may have rape and mutilated scarcely rates a fugitive impulse of pit

In the same way uninformed and unreasoning symp thy tends to take sides with the fallen and rebellio race of men against the Most High God whose name Holy. That He gave men life and intelligence, that H has been patient with them while they defied His law killed His only begotten Son and scorned His dyi love, is overlooked completely. That men use the gift of free will to reject God, choose iniquity an with wide open eyes persistently work to prepare ther selves for hell, seems not to matter to some peopl In a welter of uncontrollable emotion they throw ther selves on the side of God's enemies. This is unbeli masquerading as compassion.

The cry against the idea of moral retribution revea several deep-lying misconceptions. These have to d with the holiness of God, the nature of man, the gravi of sin and the awesome wonder of the love of God expressed in redemption. Whoever understands the even imperfectly will take God's side forever, and wha ever He may do they will cry with the voice out of th altar, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteo are thy judgments."

Perhaps Moody's word about this is as wise as an that has ever been uttered. He said, "No man shou preach on hell until he can do it with tears in his eye

Mr. Erickson

Christ's own disciples and the Early Church prove it—

Our Sufficiency Is of God

By REV. CLIFFORD H. ERICKSON

THE apostle Paul maintained a true balance between his insufficiency and the sufficiency Christ supplies. Any believer must face the problem of personal insufficiency. How can we minister the truths of God? We must understand experientially the divine enablement in the power of God. Paul stated it clearly: "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament" (2 Cor. 3:5, 6).

Paul not only knew this personally, but he was assured of the sufficiency of God for the whole church in its ministry of the new covenant. The primitive church experienced this divine power and demonstrated this continuing pattern to succeeding generations. In one and a half decades a mere handful of disciples and their spiritual descendants, filled with the Holy Spirit, demonstrated the sufficiency of God in their spiritually regenerated lives so convincingly that they were accused of turning the world upside down. They were so overflowing in the health of the gospel that human standards were changed for the better wherever Christ was preached.

When the disciples were first commissioned by Christ they were hopelessly insufficient. No one would ever have said of them, "One (shall) chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight." They were all provincials and had never been outside their own little country, yet they were given a commission which would transform the whole world. They were uneducated, yet Jesus sent them forth to "teach all nations." No social standing had they, and yet Jesus authorized them to reach all levels of society.

In addition to their deficiencies they faced serious opposition. Political opposition from both Romans and Jews was their lot. They also suffered continuously under ecclesiastical pressures when the heathen Roman idolaters and the Hebrew religionists did not accept the truth of salvation from sin by faith in the resurrected Saviour, Jesus Christ. They also had difficulties with traditions, for there were none like them in all the world. They had not even a name, for they were referred to only as followers of "the way." When they were first called Christians in Antioch it was a name of derision.

The embarrassments of their immediate past also hampered them. Peter's denial, Judas' betrayal and Christ's crucifixion had not been forgotten by the public. Added to all this was the enormity of their task—to take the gospel to the whole world, but with no church groups or missionary organizations backing them, no schools, no publications and no experience! An observer would have concluded that the one hundred and twenty disciples were absolutely insufficient for this in themselves; and that would have been right.

On the day of Pentecost, shortly after the ascension of Christ, these disciples were endued with the Holy Spirit who swept away all their defeats, embarrassments and insufficiencies. They not only overcame their immediate problems but moved among men in a new freedom of spiritual health ministering to a sick world. The Book of Acts describes a most amazing contrast in the actions and reactions of the disciples when compared with the record of the same men given in the Gospels. There is unmistakable evidence of an added factor in their lives—the fullness of the Holy Spirit that made them sufficient as a church to minister the new covenant.

The church was born through the enduement of God's power, power which has caused the church to grow from generation to generation and has expanded its ministry to the ends of the earth. But we are reminded that this fullness of the Holy Spirit is not accumulative. We are not a reservoir to store up more and more of God's fullness, for we are ever and only channels of blessing. There must be the continuous inflow and overflow of this "fluid essence of Diety" through our lives, through our churches and through our people.

Should we ever cease to be a positive force for God, should we ever cease doing exploits for God and become defensive and negative, we shall wither and die. If we ever condone worldliness, the egocentric, pleasure-seeking way, or if we ever substitute a sociological-psychological emphasis for the Spirit-filled life in Christ, we will perish. We must remain positively spiritually healthy to remain a formidable foe against the devil. We must remain the separated people that are dangerous to

Mr. Erickson is pastor of the Alliance Church in Glendale, Calif. His message delivered on the last night (May 21) of the General Council in Charlotte, N. C., is here presented in condensed form.

sin. We must remain a positive church, a victorious church living in the sufficiency of God, that all men will be drawn to Jesus Christ to know Him in His regenerating fullness.

The Gospels record the demonstrations of Christ's sufficiency in meeting man's insufficiency. He fed the five thousand, healed all the sick that came to Him, revealed to Nicodemus the need of regeneration, provided the divine redemption and sent the Holy Spirit to abide with the church. Jesus fully realized the insufficiencies of His followers, and never indicated that these were to be ignored. In every case repentance, confession and faith in Him were used to meet the need.

The law for preparing the inner man for this divine sufficiency is clearly given in the Word of God. This presentation may seem to be oversimplified, but in its personal application it will unfold to the seeking Christian. We must seek nourishment, receive energy and exercise our gifts.

Faith and obedience combine as factors that draw nourishment from the surroundings into our inner man. The law of assimilation must be followed. For as the vegetable draws nourishment from the mineral kingdom in which it is planted through its root system, so the Christian must assimilate certain elements from the lower kingdom of the mental realm by the process of faith and obedience to the truth in Christ.

We must receive divine energy from the Holy Spirit. No unction, no function! Someone has noted that when the disciples were trying to heal the demoniac lad he manifested a better case of Satan-possession than they all of God-possession. Had it been in our day, some of the disciples might have wanted to change their programing and advertising or to add some new features instead of listening to Jesus say "By prayer and fasting!" Prayer is all important. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." This is still God's way. Our bodies will protest against spiritual exercises that reach the inner man, for the flesh always recoils against the spirit. Our minds and bodies will not consent easily to extended intercession before God, but if we are to know the sufficiency of God in our ministry there are no short cuts.

We must also exercise our gifts by usage. The apostles ever used their spiritual gifts, drawing upon the resources of God's sufficiency. They acted as healthy Christians and their reactions under all pressures followed the same wholesome pattern. Persecution and even prison did not defeat them, for they bounced right back with a demonstration of their God-given sufficiency in joy, peace and love as they spread the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. ◆ ◆ ◆

The Subscription Campaign

Next to the preaching of the Wo the printed page is probably t most valuable means of promoti the gospel.

God has been pleased to hon books and tracts and magazi which have been devoted to H glory and the spiritual edification men. It would be impossible count all those persons who ha been by this means brought to knowledge of salvation throu Christ or led into spiritual victo

For seventy years this magazi has been dedicated to this minist In 1958 we believe that minist will be enlarged with the propos changes in the format of the ma zine—a larger (twenty-page) weekly printed in color. The chan in frequency of publication neces tates a change in name, and the fore THE ALLIANCE WITNESS will a pear with the first issue in 19

Each fall the Subscription Ca paign gives an opportunity to ea church to enlarge its local minis by increasing its list of subscrib Already one week of the Campa (October 27-November 24) is ov There are just three more weeks get renewals of all the present s scriptions and to get new subscrib to the magazine.

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Quotes from Our Contemporaries

An inner transformation by the Holy Spirit is the requirement of all who would be a true witness for Christ, according to ERIC W. HAYDEN in *Life of Faith:*

"Let us ask the Holy Spirit to go over our souls, dealing relentlessly with our pride and insincerity, our dishonesty and unreality; our resentment and discourtesy—in fact, all that mars our daily testimony."

CARL F. H. HENRY'S estimate of God-anointed preaching recently appeared in *Christianity Today:*

"One sermon preached in the power of the Holy Spirit can undo in a day what worldly wisdom has taken a century to build."

Work . . . perseverance . . . holiness . . .
and above all the presence of God—these constitute

The Key to Success

By REV. RAYMOND H. BELTON

"Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the Lord; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts"—HAGGAI 2:4.

HOW the exiles in Babylon rejoiced when Cyrus issued his historic proclamation making possible their return from captivity! How full they were of hope and how earnestly they set to work establishing themselves in their own land! True to their highest ideals, they assumed as their first duty the rebuilding of the Temple—their national shrine dedicated to the worship of Jehovah. They put first things first and they rightly calculated that blessing would follow their so doing.

Alas! Their high intentions were sidetracked. Their eager laying of the foundations, accompanied as it was by general rejoicing, aroused the enmity and opposition of the Samaritans with the result that the work was abandoned. The people turned their attention instead to the building of their own houses and to the pursuit of their own concerns. For fifteen years the Temple work stopped.

It was to meet this situation and to arouse the people to realize the consequences of their neglect that God sent the prophet Haggai to them.

How similar to present-day excuses was the cry of the people living in Jerusalem: "The time is not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built." They were going to do it some day, but not yet! Their intentions were good but they lacked strength to put them into practice. The danger of procrastination! The things we are going to do one day! But "the time is not come"! Does not experience teach us that, more often than not, the time never does come?

Procrastination is regrettable in all phases of life, but when it affects the spiritual it is tragic. There are thousands of people who are going to give consideration to eternal things some day, but "the time is not come." Meanwhile time passes on; opportunity after opportunity is missed; the eye is shut to the vision of God, the ear is closed to the voice of Christ and the heart hardened to the pleadings of the Holy Spirit. "The time is not come" and, apart from the grace of God, it never will come!

But the people of Jerusalem were no slackers. They had worked hard and had "sown much." Their own houses, in contrast to the House of God, were well built, not only to resist the weather but to provide comfort and beauty. Yet in spite of everything they were an unhappy people and were in dire need. The record gives a picture of a people who are suffering privation. "Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes" (Hag. 1:6).

What the people had failed to realize was that there was a direct connection between their distressed condition and their spiritual neglect. It was "because of mine house that is waste" that they were in trouble. God's Word is ever true that "them that honour me I will honour." "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness," said the Lord Jesus, "and all these things shall be added unto you."

All this has a direct application to our own time. We may be sure that much which the nations have suffered has been the result of a departure from God and that a return to Him would be accompanied by blessings of which we scarcely dream. "Rightousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." It is similar in the case of an individual. "First things first" is the call we need to sound forth during these days when God's laws are constantly being despised.

To meet the need of His people God raised up His prophet. The voice of Haggai was heard endeavoring to arouse the people from their spiritual inertia, to encourage them in their efforts and to help them in their problems. Little is known about this man of God, whose name means "solemn feast," but his powerful prophecies are applicable to the conditions of this day. A contemporary of Zechariah, in four months he delivered four messages (of which his prophecy is probably but a summary). He it was who called upon the people to consider their ways and who pointed out the reason for their troubles. He it was also who inspired them to recommence the work of rebuilding and who encouraged them until the task was complete.

"Be strong . . . and work," he cried to Zerubbabel, the civil leader, to Joshua, the religious leader, and to the nation as a whole. Take up

Mr. Belton is pastor of Christ Church, Broadstairs, Kent, England.

your tools again. You have failed once, but failure can be turned into success, for "I am with you, saith the Lord of hosts." They needed to work, for daydreaming of the job they were going to complete one day would never accomplish their purpose; they needed to be strong, for there were many difficulties to be overcome.

Perhaps someone reading this is in a position similar to that of the people of Jerusalem. You started to build; indeed you were very keen on seeing that God had first place in your life, but you became discouraged. You had not realized that there would be quite so much opposition and you gave up. God's message to you is "Be strong . . . and work." Start to build again, and be assured as you do so that He is with you and that all your needs will be supplied.

Perhaps this has application to a little piece of Christian service you were engaged in. You put your best into it until someone upset you and you became discouraged. Or it may be it is something affecting your Christian witness. You are not so careful as once you were; you have grown slack and sometimes it is very difficult to tell that you are a Christian at all!

"Be strong . . . and work." How we need to take this to heart as individuals! There are difficulties, there are enemies, but instead of being discouraged we must work away, together, and God will surely pour His blessings upon us and prosper our efforts.

In response to the call of the prophet the people set to work with a will. They toiled up the mountains to obtain the necessary wood and they coöperated in the task of rebuilding the temple. They sought to overcome the many difficulties and eventually had the joy of seeing the new temple well on the way to completion.

There were, however, two outstanding problems that presented themselves. For we have no warrant that things will go on just as we want them to, even when we are following the will of God. There are unseen forces at work of which we know but little.

There are always people who are prepared to disparage any work that is being done, however good it may be, and there were some then who brought great discouragement to the workers as they compared the temple under construction with the one that had formerly stood on that site. It appeared to them "in comparison of it as nothing." The effect of this was to weaken the hands of the builders and to make them raise the question as to whether all their efforts were worthwhile.

In the light of all this how gracious was the promise given: "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts" (Hag. 2:9). There is no telling what God may do through you and your service, however insignificant it may seem as compared with what others have accomplished.

The people had been told that the cause of their troubles was their laxity in caring for the things of God. They were now responding t the prophet's call, but as yet pro perity had not come to them. Wh was it? Was God mocking them If blessing was an outcome of obed ence, why was it not evident?

By the use of symbolic langua Haggai gave an explanation. Ho ness is not communicated when comes into contact with that whic is unholy, but holy things ma become contaminated if they a brought into touch with that whic is polluted. For fifteen years (whi the the people had been living disobedience) their unholiness ha polluted the land, causing droug and famine. Their sin had set motion God's laws and those law remained unchanged, even thou their obedience had now lasted f three months. This was the cause their continued distress.

But listen to the words of th prophet: "From this day will I ble you," saith the Lord. I will de with you, not according to judgmen but in grace. You will reap, n according to your deserts, but a cording to my loving favor.

Grace! All God's dealings wi us are in grace or where would w be? We deprecate increasingly th kind of evangelism which seems suggest that man is doing God great favor by coming to Him! It God who deals with *us* in grac We have not the slightest merit our own; we deserve nothing b judgment and hell, but God in H goodness gives us grace and heav —aye, He gives us Himself!

God spoke many words of e couragement through His serva Haggai, and gave promises of bles ing. These promises were both i mediate and ultimate.

The future was bright with ho and the people were bidden to lo up and to rejoice in the glory th was to be. They were not to jud the future by their circumstance God was over all and was leadi them on to greater experiences Himself and of His purposes for t world.

We today rejoice not in templ made by man's hands, but in th spiritual temple God is erecting a of which each believer forms part. His purposes shall be fulfille Hallelujah! ◆ ◆

The Rescue of Music

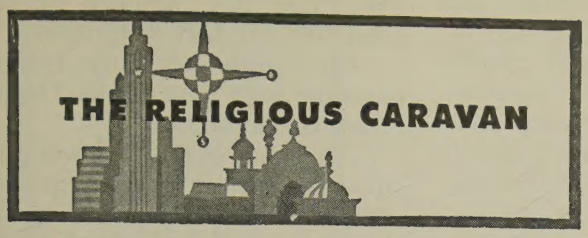
Listed into the cause of sin,
Why should a good be evil?
Music, alas! too long has been
Pressed to obey the devil.
Drunken, or lewd, or light, the lay
Flowed to the soul's undoing;
Widened, and strewed with flowers the way
Down to eternal ruin.

Who on the part of God will rise,
Innocent sound recover,
Fly on the prey, and take the prize,
Plunder the carnal lover.
Strip him of every moving strain,
Every melting measure,
Music in virtue's cause retain,
Rescue the holy pleasure?

Come, let us try if Jesu's love
Will not as well inspire us;
This is the theme of those above,
This upon earth shall fire us.
Say, if your hearts are tuned to sing,
Is there a subject greater?
Harmony all its strains may bring,
Jesus's name is sweeter.

Jesus the soul of music is,
His is the noblest passion;
Jesus's name is joy and peace,
Happiness and salvation.
Jesus's name the dead can raise,
Show us our sins forgiven,
Fill us with all the life of grace,
Carry us up to heaven.

—Charles Wesley.



DAVID R. ENLOW, Editor

AT HOME

Clergy to conduct Air Force preaching missions: Clergymen will conduct preaching missions this fall at U.S. Air Force bases and installations overseas, it was announced in Washington, D. C. Chaplain (Maj.-Gen.) Charles I. Carpenter, Chief of Air Force Chaplains, said the annual missions "contribute to the spiritual development of our personnel through their reaffirmation of their religious obligations." Eleven civilian Protestant clergymen from various parts of the country will visit forty-five bases over the world.

●

Church membership increases by twenty-six million: Church membership in the United States actually totals 129,300,000—some 26,000,000 more than records indicate—according to a survey by *Presbyterian Life,* official organ of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., published in Philadelphia. The 1958 *Yearbook of American Churches* places the membership total at 103,224,954, based on figures supplied by the various denominations and faiths.

●

Launch twenty-fifth year of "Lutheran Hour": The International "Lutheran Hour" began its twenty-fifth year of broadcasting at a rally attended by about 7,000 persons in the auditorium at Milwaukee, Wisc. Rev. Oswald C. J. Hoffman, of New York, regular "Lutheran Hour" speaker, and Rev. E. R. Bertermann, St. Louis, director of overseas operations, announced plans for continued expansion of the program, already the most extensive religious broadcast in the world.

●

"In God We Trust" bills in circulation: Some 25,000,000 one-dollar bills bearing the motto "In God We Trust" were put in circulation by the Treasury Department. They are the first American paper currency to bear the motto which has appeared on United States coins since 1864.

●

Government reports decline in theology degrees: American colleges and seminaries awarded 4,397 Bachelor of Divinity degrees, or equivalent, during the 1955-56 academic year, the United States Office of Education reported in Washington, D. C. Sixty-five of the degrees went to women. This was a decline of 127 over the previous year when 4,425 men and 99 women received B.D. degrees.

ABROAD

Hungarian Protestant delegation in China: A five-man interdenominational Protestant delegation from Hungary arrived in China for a tour of Christian centers there, the Peiping Radio reported. The station also announced the arrival in China of Janos Horvath, head of the State Office for Church Affiairs in Hungary.

●

Korean Presbyterians elect new moderator: Rev. Chunn Peel-son was elected in Pusan, Korea, as moderator for 1957-58 of the Presbyterian Church in Korea, the largest Protestant body in the country. The new moderator was born in 1896 and began his schooling at Seoul in 1910. He joined the Yun Dong Presbyterian Church inside the old East Gate and became its pastor in 1941, after having been graduated from the joint Northern-Southern Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kobe, Japan.

●

Chinese Christian Association marks anniversary: The Chinese Christian Association in Honolulu marked its seventy-fifth year of work in the Territory of Hawaii and China. The group was organized when hundreds of Chinese immigrants were arriving in the islands to work as laborers on the sugar plantations. Many of the immigrants had been converted in China.

PEOPLE

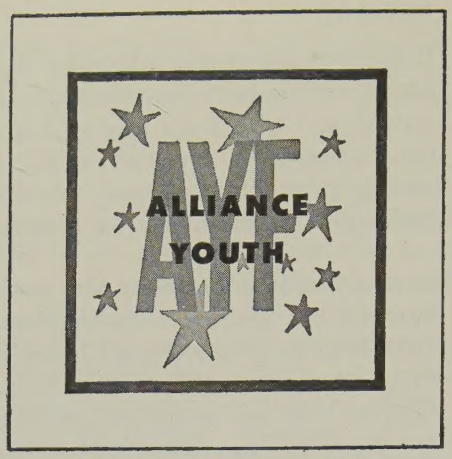
Hail minister on seventieth anniversary: Scottish-born Dr. Alexander MacMillan, ninety-two, one of Canada's best known and loved Protestant ministers, was honored in Toronto on the seventieth anniversary of his ordination. The tribute to Dr. MacMillan, who is known as Canada's "musical minister," took place at a special service in St. Andrew's United Church. Formerly a Presbyterian and now a United Church of Canada minister, Dr. MacMillan is an honorary member of the Hymn Society of America and of the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

●

Name first Philadelphia Protestant port chaplain: Rev. James F. McElroy, director and chaplain of the Seamen's Church Institute, was named by the Greater Philadelphia Council of Churches as the first Protestant chaplain of the port of Philadelphia. The appointment was concurred in by Baptist, Episcopal, Evangelical United Brethren, Evangelical and Reformed, and Presbyterian organizations. Mr. McElroy, an Episcopalian, recently succeeded Dr. Percy R. Stockman as head of the institute.

ODDITIES IN THE NEWS

Lutheran congregation splits four ways: "Mission by Fission" was accomplished in Toronto when Redeemer Lutheran Church split its ten-year-old congregation of 400 four ways instead of attempting to enlarge the church. Members moved into three new missions on the eastern, western and northwestern edges of the city. Only those within easy reach of Redeemer Church will continue to worship there.



WELDON B. BLACKFORD, Editor

AYF Leadership Retreat at San Francisco

It was a bright and sunny Wednesday afternoon the first week in September when delegates began to arrive for the AYF Leadership Retreat in the air-conditioned city of San Francisco. Car doors swung wildly open and young AYFers bounded out on the beautiful campus of Simpson Bible College, host for the three-day program which continued through Friday noon. Eighty-six AYFers in all, representing thirty Alliance churches, attended this first District-wide AYF Leadership Retreat held in the South Pacific District.

The first afternoon will not soon be forgotten by many of the AYFers. Some had never been to the big city before, and the fabulous sights of San Francisco were an awesome spectacle to the majority.

Many of them had never visited Simpson Bible College since it had moved from Seattle, Washington, to San Francisco. Those seeing it for the first time were filled with thanksgiving to God, as was I, at the first sight of the beautiful new facilities of the school. The campus spreads out over the top of a hill overlooking part of the city of San Francisco. The main building with its attractive lobby, well-equipped classrooms, spacious dining room, coffee shop and other facilities is able to accommodate approximately four hundred students. Another building, in the rear, is a fully equipped gymnasium. The most recent excitement among Simpson students was caused by the installation of a pipe organ with nineteen ranks of pipes. The instrument, although used, was purchased and installed at a phenomenally low cost. There is no doubt about it, AYFers may be justly proud of their Alliance school in the West.

But there was something more about the excitement of that first afternoon. It was the good feeling of meeting fellows and girls from other areas and churches who had come for the same purpose as you—AYF leaders whom you would get to know and like, with whom you would share problems and exchange ideas. This was a gathering of the finest youth from our South Pacific AYF.

The program for the retreat was planned with a purpose. It was a serious program, planned for AYF leadership. Wednesday afternoon was spent in registration activities and getting acquainted. A keynote address was brought by the National Youth Secretary in the evening on the subject "The Measure of an AYF."

Thursday morning was filled with seminar programs which covered the following subjects:

1. Programing Problems.
2. Effective Music in the AYF.
3. How to Organize Effectively.
4. Personal Development in Leadership.
5. AYF Leadership.
6. Outreach, Christian Service.
7. How to Utilize the Appeal of Missions.

Seminar leaders included the National Youth Secretary, Rev. Weldon B. Blackford; Rev. Robert W. Ross, Rev. Clifford Erickson, Rev. Wend W. Price, Rev. Kenneth Backlu and Rev. Herbert S. Clingen.

A tour of the city of San Francis was the high light of the Thursd afternoon schedule.

The climax of the days was a b quet and special program for Thu day evening. All agreed that th appointed to demonstrate a succe ful AYF banquet did a fine job. was one of the finest banquets th have attended.

After seminar sessions and an o forum period Friday morning, the treat closed with a word of exhor tion and testimonies. I wish th testimonies could have been reco ed and passed on to you. God h stirred the hearts of these lead Wednesday night, some of them maining to pray for an hour af the service closed. This spirit c tinued throughout the following d and was expressed in testimo AYF leaders returned to th churches with new burden, new sion and new determination fo stronger AYF in the South Pac District.

Youth Week AYF Pins

The National Youth Office nounces the release of promotic buttons for use during Natic AYF Sunday and Youth We November 17 through 24. Th pins carry an attractive imprint the letters "AYF," and are pri so that a good quantity may ordered by the local AYF a minimum cost. Everyone attend the services of the church on A Sunday and during the week ou to receive one of these special p from the local fellowship.

Send your orders to Christ Publications, Inc., Third and R Streets, Harrisburg, Pa. The p are ready for immediate shipm at the cost of $2.00 per hundr Please include your remittance.

AYF Guide

Bible reading plan for school day

NOVEMBER 4-8

Monday .....Genesis
Tuesday .....Psalm
Wednesday .....Luke 1:57-8
Thursday .....Psalm 5
Friday .....Acts 4:13-3

Southernmost City of the World

By EUNICE L. BOEHNKE, *Chile*

Close to the southern tip of the great South American continent lies the beautiful cosmopolitan city of Punta Arenas with its 55,000 inhabitants. Sprawling hills which slope to the large harbor are covered with homes of both the poor and the wealthy, and with shops selling articles and foods from all over the world. Here and there are religious and public schools and a few outstanding modern buildings. Especially conspicuous are the impressive steeples of eight large Catholic churches.

There is no lack of religion in this southernmost city of the world. Early one morning, out of curiosity, I entered the large Catholic Cathedral and heard the priest giving a sermon against the Protestant religion. He insisted that all literature passed out by Protestants should be burned and that the people should keep the priest informed as to what these "heretics" were teaching and doing. Well-trained Jehovah's Witnesses busily go from house to house teaching their errors. The Seventh-day Adventists have not only a church building but a school, and not long ago a Mormon missionary arrived in Punta Arenas. On one occasion we spoke with the leader of the Baha'i group and shuddered to think of what diabolical teachings are being spread among the poor lost sheep. Jesus Christ Himself said, "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice . . ." Are we obeying Christ's call to seek the lost sheep, or are we allowing the wolves to come in first to take their toll?

To our great joy, an outstanding lay worker from the Alliance church in La Unión, Chile, Mr. Robert Young, has been transferred by his company to the town of Porvenir. This town is on an island opposite Punta Arenas. In Porvenir there are several Alliance families. They are encouraged by Mr. Young's coming to begin a church there. However, his great desire is to reach Punta Arenas with the Alliance message. Although the cities are close to each other, travel between them is difficult due to the lack of a definite boat schedule. A family from the same church as Mr. Young has also come. They are eager to begin a work as soon as possible. Pray for them and the other Alliance families in this region, that God will lead them in all of their plans and undertakings and that soon a missionary family may be sent to Punta Arenas. Four Protestant missions are now working in Punta Arenas, but there is yet a great field in the city itself and in its environs.

Are we to sit back and ignore this call which presents itself with greater urgency each year? Are we staying too close to the shore line, satisfied with the few fish which are caught in our nets? When Christ said to His disciples, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught," He expected obedience. As they obeyed His command an abundance of fish was given them.

We must answer the great need among the people in Patagonia. Workers and funds are required, but our God is able, for He has said, "I will never leave thee." . . . "Go in this thy might."

When "Mark" Arrived

By HELEN EVANS, *Tribes of Viet Nam*

Since the Gospels of Mark and John, printed for us in Canada by the Bible Society, had been shipped early last spring, we thought surely they would be here when we opened Bible school on June 13. So I was asked to teach a course on the Gospel of Mark during that three-month session. Using a carbon of the manuscript, I set to work writing out the lessons in Koho.

School opened on time, but the Gospel of Mark had not arrived, but it "happened" that while we were working on the translation several years ago we made some changes in spelling, so the manuscripts had to be retyped. Altogether it was typed four different times. I told the ten men in the class that two would have to share one manuscript. This wasn't at all satisfactory, but we were grateful to the Lord for His provision.

Then two more students arrived. I debated about giving them my copy or having three men try to look on one manuscript. The next morning as I was about to leave for class, Miss Bowen triumphantly handed me another copy of Mark. She had been looking up something in the Matthew manuscript and came across a forgotten copy of Mark—in the wrong folder. For-

A view of Punta Arenas, Chile, southernmost city of the world

gotten by us, but not by the Lord!

At the end of the second week I learned that two more students had arrived. Again there was the problem of sufficient texts. That night someone handed me an envelope from Mrs. George Irwin in Djiring. In it was the only printed copy of Mark available—sent ahead to Mr. Irwin because he had read the proofs. The Lord met our need exactly on time—not a day early but not an hour late!

Each day we prayed that the books would come. At last a telegram announced their arrival and Mr. Funé hurried to town to pick up the parcel. Meanwhile I was teaching the class. When I told them the good news they were so happy that they clapped their hands. Ha Mang spoke: "When I was praying this morning I had a feeling they would come today. Oh, praise the Lord!" With full hearts we sang the Koho equivalent of the Doxology and then I called on Mang to pray. Very earnestly he thanked the Lord and then asked His help as they study this portion of His Word.

Two of the "103 missionaries" make their first contact with heathenism in Viet Nam

Into the Darkness

By REV. ROBERT T. HENRY

THE River of Perfume which winds through Hué, the colorful city which in ancient times was the capital of Viet Nam, was covered with Chinese-style junks that morning. Tom Stebbins and I climbed aboard one of them. Our destination was that part of the coastal area of Central Viet Nam where not a single person has ever heard of Jesus Christ. Our objective was to bring Light to those who sit in darkness, a people who can be reached by no other method than by our eating as they eat, traveling as they travel, sleeping on boards as they sleep and talking the language that they talk.

The first night we were kept awake by a rat which kept running over the round roof of the little boat. A sick baby in another fishing boat near us cried most of the time.

By seven o'clock in the morning we touched the shore of a village and our fervent lay preacher was telling the gospel story. It was in this village that our minds were jarred into the fresh realization that we had gone into the darkness. Heathenism is ghastly as the spiritual darkness within seeps out into filthiness and disease of body. We discovered that the tender mercies of the heathen are cruel, for with their superstitious practices they are actually killing their own babies. The village was infested with every imaginable tropical disease. After I would treat one person as well as I knew how I would find two or three more ready to take his place. Nearly all of them were sick with the grippe that was sweeping through the Orient. When I insisted on washing my hands after treating each person (as there seemed to be much venereal disease) they had to run all over the village to find one small piece of native soap. As we treated them we witnessed and told them of the Great Physician who could heal both their body and soul. After this so many came that we gathered them around and in the name of Jesus prayed that the resurrection life of Jesus in all His power might be released in their bodies. As we walked back to the boat we wanted to weep over the horrible state of these people apart from Jesus Christ.

That evening we anchored off a sand bar among a large group of fishing boats. Immediately we proceeded to witness and to distribute literature. After dark we conducted a preaching service by flashlight and many of the men waded to our boat and stood knee-deep in water throughout the entire service. They said that they usually went to sleep about 6:30 or 7:00 P.M. because they go out with the tide at midnight to fish. But that night we heard them reading Scripture portions half the night. The darkness of heathenism is black and cruel, but there are millions reaching out for light.

On the other hand, there are those who want nothing of this "new religion." After centuries of worshiping stone idols, their minds are made dull and their hearts become as petrified as the idols to which they pray. We were made very aware of this when the officials of one village ushered us into a Buddhist temple, and there under the squinting eyes of two Buddhist images they inspected our credentials and made it plain that they wanted nothing of us nor our doctrine. The coolness of their stare and speech was but a reflection of the expressionless idols. Brethren, if you worship and adore Jesus Christ you will become like unto Him, but if you were in the stead of these poor benighted souls who worship images of wood and stone, you too, would become like unto stone.

That evening a wind blew up and took us across the bay. Earlier the boatmen had refused to go. There we found a warm reception. After we preached and prayed for the sick an old lady prayed that the Lord would save her. We were amazed that anyone hearing for the first time could ever understand enough to accept Christ as Saviour. Perhaps Christ shone light into her darkened heart in a special way, for she was very sick and looked to be on the brink of death. That evening we preached again. Afterward we tried to sleep to the sound of wailing Buddhist priests who thought that by their loud crying they would be heard of heaven.

Those of you who are in daily attendance before the Mercy Seat of the Almighty, please do not forget us, for we have gone into the darkness. Rosarylike praying through a Prayer Manual will not avail. We need intercessors who will pour out their souls in the prayer closet that these who are bound by the chains and hosts of an eternal hell might be gloriously delivered and brought out into "a large place" of light and salvation. We have descended into the dark cave of heathen night. Pray that when we emerge there shall come with us a shining, spotless Bride for the Son of Man.

India

Gujarat. The need for a Christian bookstore in Ahmedabad has been a burden on many hearts for several years. Now the Mission has an opportunity to procure a large shop in the best section of the city at most reasonable rent and could occupy the premises immediately if it was not necessary to purchase the equipment in the shop. Pray that the Lord will supply all that is needed, including personnel of His choice, that Ahmedabad with its population of nearly a million people might have good Christian literature in the various languages used there.

French West Africa

A missionary printer is needed for the Kankan Print Shop where an emergency furlough has created a sudden vacancy . . . Pray for a number of missionaries who are ill and are looking to the Lord for deliverance. . . . Pray that requests for properties at Yende Milimou for a station and at Kissidougou for a new church may be granted. These requests were filed with the government several months ago, but no answer has been received. . . . Pray for the class of women at Kankan, some of whom have heathen husbands who try to interfere with their attendance at church and class. Pray that the women may live victoriously before their husbands and that the husbands will be saved.

Gabon

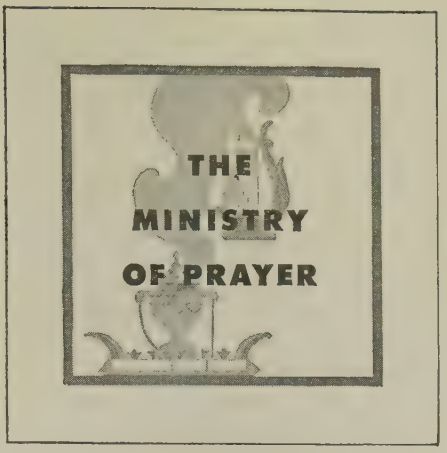
Daniel Nsengui, a teacher, has been repeatedly tested in his body, suffering a scaly itch, pneumonia and a disease of the lymph glands. He has had this last condition for nearly two months. He has been tempted almost above what he could bear and had made plans to go to the devil society to have the evil spirit that is causing this trouble exorcised. The elders in the village where he is preaching have told him that his sickness is due to the resentment of the village people and to their asking the devil to curse him with a sickness unto death. This man has been a faithful servant of the Lord, but because of his weakened condition he seems willing to go to any extreme for relief. This is an urgent request.

Viet Nam

The annual church conference is to be held in Vinh Long November 3 to 7. Pray that God will grant real revival. . . . Pray for the new missionaries (five couples and one single man), that they may be anointed for the difficult task of language study and that God will use their living witness during this time.

Laos

Rev. Saly Kounthapannya, president of the Gospel Church of North Laos, continues in poor health (March 13, 1957). Medications have not brought any improvement. Severe pains of the neck and head, no grip in his hands and a weakness in his knees, plus acute insomnia, have left him so weak and



weary that he has little initiative or strength to pursue his duties of church administration. His presence among the churches at this time is most necessary. Stand with him that he might know Christ as his Healer.

Thailand

Praise God that the Korat City church is on the upswing (see January 16, 1957). Some wayward members are returning, the annual meeting has been held, and the Sunday school is growing. Pray much that this congregation will experience the mighty working of God in their midst. . . . For many years there has been an open door to the gospel in this land. Pray that the drastic change in government that is taking place will not mean an adverse change for missionary endeavor.

Colombia

The reports to annual missionary conference showed tremendous spiritual hunger and open doors in all the districts. The missionaries' prayer is that, in spite of the sadly depleted staff of laborers, God will work mightily through both national brethren and missionaries to reach these vast regions that are so in need.

Ecuador

Those at Agato ask that we earnestly pray (1) for God to call an Indian worker among the Otavalo Indians to preach the gospel and minister the Word to the people of his own race; (2) for their school, as it is necessary for some of the people to be able to read and write if the work in that area is to progress.

Argentina

For the first time in the history of missions a united evangelistic campaign is being held in Buenos Aires. Practically all the Protestant groups in the area are working together in preparation for the "Buenos Aires for Christ Crusade" being held October 21 to November 3 in the great Luna Park indoor stadium, which has a seating capacity of 12,000. The evangelist is Dr. Oswald J. Smith, of the Peoples Church, Toronto. Gospel chalk artist Phil Saint will assist with illustrated messages. Urgent prayer is requested on behalf of the crusade. Successfully completed, it could encourage the church to attempt greater things for God in the future.

Peru

Pray regarding the purchase of property needed for a church in the university city of Trujillo, that the proper piece of land will be obtained in God's time.

Chile

Pray for the primary school teachers in our seven rural schools. May they be used of God to win many of their pupils to Christ as they teach the Bible as well as the secular subjects.

Philippines

Praise God that Eyano Pangiles, for several months incapacitated through illness (May 29, 1957), has been restored to health and is back again in the ministry. . . . The C. & M. A. churches of the Philippines have undertaken a heavy missionary financial program in the support of thirteen of its official workers through its missionary treasury. This is entirely in addition to the individual churches' support of their pastors or deaconesses. Pray that the voluntary missionary offerings of individuals and churches will make possible the necessary support of these missionaries and that all the Alliance churches in the Philippines will be true missionary churches.

Indonesia

Pray that a site will soon be found for the proposed Bible school to be located in Java. Advanced leadership training for our Indonesian brethren is one of the vital needs of this hour. . . . Java is one of the great mission fields of the world, with its crowded millions as ripened grain waiting for the gospel scythe. Pray that the people, both in city and village, will be reached soon. . . . Pray that the Indonesian government will relax its visa regulations and thus enable the many missionaries waiting for entrance visas or re-entry permits to get into the land. Pray that the new Indonesian hymnbook can soon be printed. Not only additional funds are needed but also a printer must be contacted who can handle the printing of music.

New Guinea

The new continuation school, built to replace the one burned at Obano last November, is opening, praise God; however, there is a shortage of food due to heavy rains and high water. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Also praise God for providing a Dutch schoolteacher to take Miss Elze Stringer's place as she goes on furlough (The Alliance Weekly, April 24, 1957).

One way to introduce missions to your Christian friends and at the same time increase The Alliance Weekly subscription total in your local church is to send gift subscriptions.

CLIFFORD E. HARROD, Reporter

News reports may be sent direct to Rev. C. E. Harrod, The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, East and Lane Streets, Raleigh, N. C.

To the Fields

Mr. and Mrs. Adriaan Stringer and daughter, Elizabeth, sailed from Amsterdam, Holland, on September 21 for their first term in New Guinea. Mr. and Mrs. Stringer are members of the Zuderkapel church in Holland, an affiliation of the Alliance in that country. Mr. Stringer is a brother of Miss Elze Stringer in New Guinea; they will work in the Continuation School at Obano.

Ferne A. Gerrie
India

Miss Ferne A. Gerrie sailed from New York on October 9, returning to India for her second term. A member of the Avenue Road Alliance Church in Toronto, Canada, she will be stationed at Akola where she will resume her duties as secretary to the field chairman.

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Stieglitz sailed from New York on October 11 for their first term in New Guinea. Both are graduates of Nyack Missionary College and members of the C. & M. A. church in Oklahoma City. They have spent the past two years in the pastorate in Austin, Tex. They will be stationed in the Ilaga Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. William Stieglitz
New Guinea

On Furlough

Miss Yvonne Heiden arrived on the West Coast by plane October 6, having completed her first term in New Guinea. She was stationed at Enarotali until the early part of this year when she moved to Sentani. She will spend her furlough with her family in Watertown, S. Dak.

The New Generation

To *Rev. and Mrs. John Garrison,* on furlough from India, a daughter, Joy Esther, on October 4.

Marriages

Rev. Clarence E. Perry and *Mrs. Vera M. Cleveland* were united in marriage at Carlisle, Pa., on October 8.

With the Lord

Mrs. Margaret Foster, oldest member and a charter member of the Wissinoming Gospel Tabernacle of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, Philadelphia, Pa., went to be with the Lord on August 26 at the age of ninety-three. It was in September, 1920, that a small group of Christians began meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Foster in the Wissinoming section of Philadelphia under the leadership of Rev. Frederick Senft, then vice-president of the Alliance. This work was later organized as the Wissinoming Gospel Tabernacle. Mrs. Foster and her family remained faithful members and supporters of the work through the years. In the latter years of her life when she was a shut-in, Mrs. Foster was an effective prayer warrior in behalf of the world-wide ministry of the gospel. Funeral services were conducted in Philadelphia by Rev. Walter Erb, pastor-emeritus, and Rev. R. L. Cole, present pastor of the Tabernacle.

Children's Services Held in South

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Portway, children's evangelists of Toronto, Canada, conducted special children's meetings in several churches of the South Atlantic District during June and also ministered at Lo-Ma-Co Junior Camp in July. Charlotte, Greensboro, Lexington and Raleigh, N. C., were points visited, with decisions for Christ in each place. In Charlotte evening meetings were held, with the adults attending the first part of the program, then moving to a Bible study class for an hour while the children's service was held. Programs in the other places were held in the morning with closing exercises conducted on Sunday evening.

During the Lo-Ma-Co Junior Camp the Portways were in charge of the morning Bible hour as well as the evening evangelistic service. Several children accepted Christ as Saviour during the week. Their ministry of the Word in object lesson, picture and song was much appreciated by the workers.

Missionary Treasury

★ ★ ★ ★

September, 1957

General Fund $230,604.6
Designated Specials 30,906.2

The 1957 income received through September was $211,000 less than what is needed under the budget to carry forward our 1957 program.

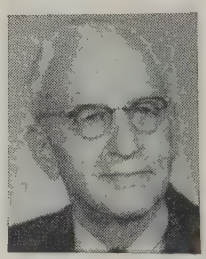
Gifts for the month of September are covered by our receipts Nos. 12877 to 14307 and 850 to 961. If you failed to receive a receipt for your contribution please communicate with our auditors Messrs. Lambrides & Lambrides, 220 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y.

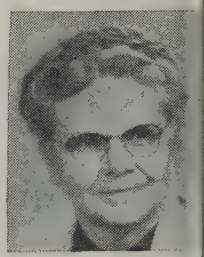
All contributions should be designated and addressed to the Treasurer, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 260 West 44th Street, New York 36, N. Y.

Bernard S. King
Treasurer.

Articles Available in Booklet Form

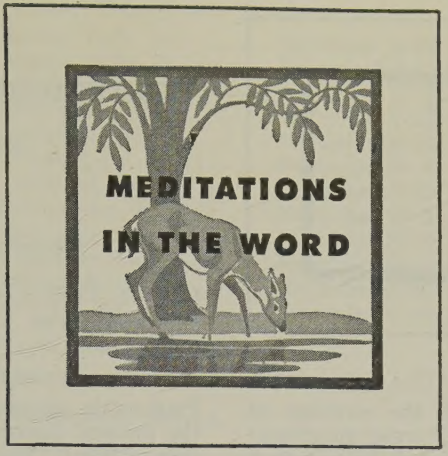
The series of articles "Counsel to Young Christians," by Joseph T. Larson, which appeared a few months ago in THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY, is now available in booklet form at thirty cents a single copy, twenty cents each in orders of fifteen or more. Order from Evangelist Joseph T. Larson, 4203 Alcott St., Denver 11, Colo.





Rev. and Mrs. H. G. Crisman
Ecuador (ALLIANCE WEEKLY, Sept. 25

Mr. and Mrs. Adriaan Stringer and chil
New Guinea



Compiled by EDITH M. BEYERLE

Sunday

READING—James 5:11-20.
TEXT—*"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray"* (verse 13).

Is this what we are doing, beloved? Are we meeting God in our trials, or are we running to every expedient that our minds suggest and coming to Him only when every other resource has failed? How true to our experience is the reproof of God to Israel, "For thus saith the Lord God, . . . In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not" (Isa. 30:15). Instead of trusting Him to work for them, they resolved to make alliance with the world and borrow the swift horses of Egypt. "But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift." . . . Alas, how often have we delayed our blessing until we were through with all our earthly expedients and had learned to look to God alone!—A. B. SIMPSON.

Pray for The Island World; Eastern, South Pacific Districts, Mexico.

Monday

READING—Philippians 4:1-9.
TEXT—*"The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"* (verse 7).

True peace comes only in the possession of God, and the possession of God is only found on this earth in the submission of faith and in obedience to His law. Together they maintain a pure, unmingled love in the heart's depths. Put far from you all forbidden objects; tear out all desires that have nothing to do with God; banish all hurry and all anxiety; desire only God, seek only for Him, and you will have peace; you will have peace notwithstanding the world. What troubles you so much? Poverty? Contempt? Want of success? Inward and outward crosses? Look on all this as veritable favors that the hand of God distributes among His friends, and that He deigns to let you take part in; then the face of the world will change before you and nothing will take your peace from you.—FÉNELON.

Pray for India; Western Pennsylvania District, Puerto Rico, Jewish Work.

Tuesday

READING—Revelation 3:14-22.
TEXT—*"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne"* (verse 21).

Consider, . . . if ye are not high up now, and far ben in the palace of our Lord, when ye are upon a throne in white raiment, at lovely Christ's elbow. O thrice fools are we who, like newborn princes weeping in the cradle, know not that there is a kingdom before them! Then let our Lord's sweet hand square us and hammer us and strike off the knots of pride, self-love and world-worship, and infidelity, that He may make us stones and pillars in His Father's house (Rev. 3:12). . . . What think ye to take binding with the fair cornerstone, Jesus? The Lord give you wisdom to believe and hope your day is coming. . . . Think ye much to follow the Heir of the crown, who had experience of sorrows and was acquainted with grief (Isa. 53:3)? It were pride to aim to be above the King's Son: it is more than we deserve, that we are *equals* in glory, in a manner.—SAMUEL RUTHERFORD.

Pray for Africa; Western, Western Canadian, Southeastern Districts.

Wednesday

READING—Mark 4:35-41.
TEXT—*"And there was a great calm"* (verse 39).

Calm me, my God, and keep me calm,
While these hot breezes blow;
Be like the night dew's cooling balm
Upon earth's fevered brow.

Calm in the hour of buoyant health,
Calm in my hour of pain,
Calm in my poverty or wealth,
Calm in my loss or gain.

Calm as the ray of sun or star
Which storms assail in vain;
Moving unruffled through earth's war,
The eternal calm to gain.

—HORATIUS BONAR.

Pray for Indo-China, Thailand; Northeastern, Eastern and Central Canadian Districts.

Thursday

READING—Joshua 14:6-15.
TEXT—*"Give me this mountain"* (verse 12).

Caleb was one of the few men who was not always seeking the easy things of life. Most men at eighty-five years of age would have retired and taken life easy; but not so with Caleb. He had a vision. He had a spirit of loyalty to God. He had hope. He had endurance. He had faith that could do the humanly impossible. In thinking of Caleb we are reminded of Adoniram Judson, one of the first to leave America for missionary lands. Judson was a man who despised victories and conquests without battles preceding the victories. It was his very nature to loathe the easy things of life. It took a man like Judson to be a missionary to Burma. God does need men and women of stalwart character, men and women who refuse to be defeated when they are in the will of God, men and women who will undertake the humanly impossible.—E. G. MARSH.

Pray for South America; Southwestern, Pacific Northwest Districts.

Friday

READING—Ecclesiastes 10:1-11.
TEXT—*"Whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him"* (verse 8).

An excellent Biblical illustration of this text is the life of Samson as given in Judges 16. This last judge of Israel, who had the Nazarite vow upon him, had served his nation well for nearly twenty years. Then, alas, a great temptation came into his life and he side-stepped the revealed will of God and fell in love with a woman of Philistia. By deceit and subtlety she persuaded him to tell her the secret of his strength whereby God had enabled him to prevail against all enemies. And in the disclosure of this spiritual secret, which resulted in the frustration of his vow to God, the "hedge" of his protection and security was broken down and the inevitable happened: a "serpent" bit him! And poor Samson was forever ruined so far as the perfect purpose of God for his entire life was concerned. A love of self, a woman's kiss, a broken "hedge," a "serpent's" bite—tragedy!—PAMEH.

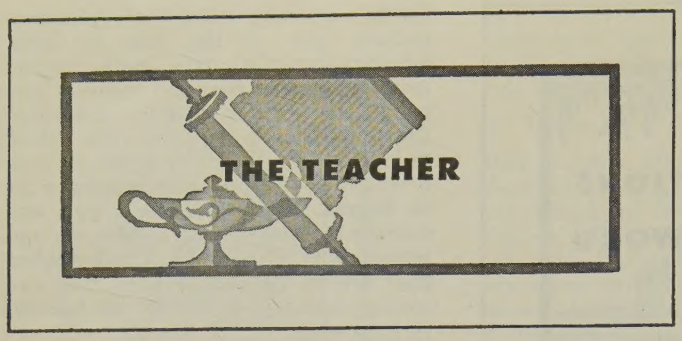
Pray for China, Hong Kong; Northwestern, New England Districts.

Saturday

READING—John 10:22-33.
TEXT—*"My sheep hear my voice, . . . and they follow me"* (verse 27).

Why do not people hear His voice? I suggest to you a reason. Some people are too busy; they are so full of Christian activity they have no time to be quiet and listen. Get quiet with God whatever you do; hear His voice. He wants to come in as the Lord of your life. Oh, the tragedy of being too busy! We are too busy in Christian service; we are going out here, there and everywhere preaching, and we cannot get alone with the Lord and His Word. . . . My dear friend, are you too busy? Would you and I get quiet now? The Lord is knocking. Will you listen? You have never let Him into the throne room of your heart. The center letters of the word "heart" are "ear"; there is an ear in the center of your heart. Will you listen with that ear?—LIFE OF FAITH.

Pray for Israel, Jordan, Syria; Central, South Atlantic Districts.



By DON J. KENYON

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON—NOVEMBER 10, 1957

Many Gifts But One Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1-13

DEVOTIONAL READING—Ephesians 4:4-16

GOLDEN TEXT—*"So we, being many, are one body in Christ and every one members one of another."*—ROMANS 12:5

BACKGROUND AND LESSON ORIENTATION

In First Corinthians 12 Paul deals with the exercise of spiritual gifts. Such bestowals of the Spirit were manifestations of Spirit-energized power which rendered the recipient capable of performing that which he could not naturally do. These gifts were apparent in all (v. 7) and given for the edification of the church, sovereignly distributed by the Spirit Himself (v. 11). The value of the gift was the manner in which it was manifested. It was possible to misuse it. It was to be evaluated by virtue of its intrinsic ability to minister to the most people in the best way. This principle made the gift of prophecy of the greatest value. Decency and orderliness were called for in expressing them. No man was to be "carried away" by the Spirit as he had been led to excess by dumb idols.

CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Paul again adopted the spirit of instruction. He attributed the present disorderliness of the Corinthian believers to their past idolatry. They needed to be taught the nature of their Christian heritage and to become aware of their unity as a body of believers. For one member of the body to act without regard to the rest creates a schism (v. 25). God gave the gifts by the Spirit for the proper function of the total body. They were a means to a divine end. To overexploit the means while ignoring the end was to remain childish. This was a fine appeal for Christian adulthood. The *enjoyment* of religion is its lowest benefit. Its highest is to *edify* the entire church. Our most persistent quest should be for the best gifts which are manifested in love in the spirit of edification.

SIMPLIFIED OUTLINE

1. *Religious Perversions of Idolatry*—1 Corinthians 12:1-3.
2. *The Diversity in Unity*—1 Corinthians 12:4-7.
3. *The Unity in Diversity*—1 Corinthians 12:8-13.

KEY WORD ANALYSIS

(1) "Gifts"—*charisma* (v. 4). This word singles out the gifts as being gracious bestowals upon the believers by the Holy Ghost. In bestowal and manifestation they are supernatural.

(2) "Administrations"—*diakonia* (v. 5), referring to services which are essential to and inherent in the work of the Lord and performed by saints. This is the root of our word deacon.

(3) "Operations"—*energema* (v. 6). This compares with the English word "energy" and refers to that which is produced by the energy of the Holy Spirit in men. The Spirit endows us for a manifestation of His power in service and work for God. The three words here defined show the work of the Trinity in redemption.

COMMENTARY ON THE PRINTED TEXT

1. *Religious Perversions of Idolatry* (1 Cor. 12:1-3).

Paul instructed the Christians of Corinth in the wide range of spiritual activity in the church and their relation to it. Most problems arise from ignorance. Paul believed that information would bring sincere Christians to the place of response. They already knew how they had behaved as idolaters. Although the idols were dumb they were not without the awful influence of demon power (see 1 Cor. 10:19ff.). He showed them they were demon-led. His instruction was presented with force and conviction (v. 3).

He showed them the distinction between unbridled, sensuous passion leading to excess, and the controlled and energized manifestation of the Holy Spirit. The former dishonors God; the latter glorifies Him. No man can volitionally declare the Lordship of Christ apart from the Holy Spirit.

2. *The Diversity in Unity* (1 Cor. 12:4-7).

God's impartations are designed redemptively, not denominationally. The diversity of the Spirit's operation is the manifestation of one Person consistent with Himself and His ends. In the church God has ordained a variety of services which are to be rendered for His glory and the proper operation of His church.

This energy of the supernatural expresses itself in a variety of ways—unction, power, healing, miracles—but it is the power of one God. It is the same power that is manifest in the operation of the entire universe. The Spirit of God works in harmony with Christ according to God's will. Anything out of harmony with the work of Christ or the will of God cannot be attributed to the Spirit. Human activity in human energy does not qualify as the manifestation of the Spirit (v. 7) but is rather that which puffs up or causes confusion or division and must be considered as unworthy of the Trinity. The Spirit is grieved by our ignorance.

3. *The Unity in Diversity* (1 Cor. 12:8-13).

The nine manifestations of the Spirit listed here may be divided into three classifications. The first is expressed by the power to declare the church's *doctrines*. Paul has much to say about purity of doctrine in speaking against heresies which would destroy her position by vain philosophy. Then there are those gifts which have to do with the display of the church's *power*—faith for healing, working of miracles, etc. Finally, there are those gifts which have to do with the declaration of the *joy and worship* of the church—the expression of the ecstatic and joyous truth which inspires and lifts the listener out of the mundane and earthy. All these functions are necessary and although diverse, they are all for one purpose—the edification of the church. The variety finds its unity in the one Person who works toward one particular end.

As humanly conceived it may not seem equitable but the importance of any element cannot be minimized. If it is of the Spirit it has spiritual value. Using the analogy of the human body, Paul makes the matter clear to this church.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR LESSON PREPARATION

Adopting the analogy which Paul used to present this truth is the most natural and effective way to present this lesson. The human body is in itself a unity in diversity and a diversity in unity. There is no confusion nor schism; it functions in unconscious unity. A Spirit-filled church should operate in the same way. The unnatural and forced manifestation of religion can be marked as fleshly.

Local Conventions

★ ★ ★ ★

Convening November 3-10

A full-orbed view of missions is essential to keep vigorous and practical our missionary vision. The best cure for an unbalanced perspective or an apathetic interest is to prayerfully attend the missionary convention held in your church.

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Attleboro, Mass. .....November 4-10
Worcester, Mass. .....November 3-10

Northeastern District

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Watertown, N. Y. .....November 7-10
Boonville, N. Y. .....November 7-10
Ohio, N. Y. .....November 3- 6
Chepatchet, N. Y. .....November 3
Massena, N. Y. .....November 3- 6

Eastern District

Philadelphia, Pa.
(Wissinoming) .....November 3-10
(69th Street) .....November 3-10
Fairless Hills, Pa. .....November 3-10
Flourtown, Pa. .....November 3-10
Harrisburg, Pa. .....November 3-10
Mechanicsburg, Pa. .....November 3-10
Carlisle, Pa. .....November 3-10
Wilmington, Del. .....November 3-10
Chester, Pa. .....November 3-10

Western Pennsylvania District

Beaver Falls, Pa. .....November 3-10
Marion Hills, Pa. .....November 3-10
West Bridgewater, Pa. ..November 3- 6
Darlington, Pa. .....November 7-10
Ambridge, Pa. .....November 3-10
Wireton, Pa. .....November 3- 6
Pinehurst, Pa. .....November 7-10
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Beccaria, Pa. .....November 3- 6
Coal Run, Pa. .....November 3- 6
Williamsburg, Pa. .....November 7-10
Morrell, Pa. .....November 7-10

South Atlantic District

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Southeastern District

Avalon Beach, Fla. .....November 4- 6
Elberta, Ala. .....November 4-10
North Elberta, Ala. .....November 4- 6
Lillian, Ala. .....November 4- 6
Biloxi, Miss. .....November 4-10
Meridian, Miss. .....November 7-10
Greenville, Miss. .....November 7-10

Central District

Mt. Vernon, Ohio .....November 4-10
Lima, Ohio .....November 4-10
New Bremen, Ohio .....November 7-10
Cincinnati, Ohio .....November 4-10
(Calvary Chapel) ....November 7-10

Northwestern District

Vermillion, S. Dak. .....November 3- 6
Milwaukee, Wisc. .....November 3- 7
Mole Lake, Wisc. .....November 3- 8
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Freeman Spur, Wisc. ....November 3- 8

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San Bernardino, Calif. ...November 5-10
Pomona, Calif. .....November 5-10

Eastern and Central Canadian District

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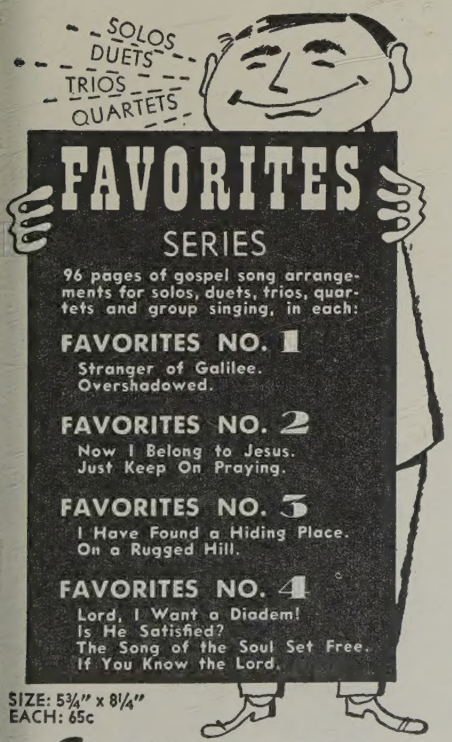
(Yonge Street) .....November 3-10

Western Canadian District

Red Deer, Alta. .....November 3-10
Vantage, Sask. ...November 4-6 and 10
Assiniboia, Sask. .....November 7-10

Faith is to do God's will here and now, quietly leaving the results to Him. Faith is not concerned with the entire chain; its devoted attention is fixed upon the immediate link. Faith is not knowledge of a moral process; it is fidelity in a moral act. Faith leaves something to the Lord; it obeys His immediate commandment and leaves to Him direction and destiny.—J. H. JOWETT.



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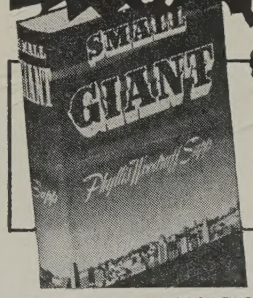

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CHEO Reo is a jungle crossroads deep in the tribal territory of Viet Nam. Geographically it appears to be unimportant. It is not even on the national road which traverses that region.

Yet this spot among the Jarai tribespeople has been chosen by the Tribes of Viet Nam Mission as a center for spreading the gospel. A missionary family is now moving into the house recently built as a base for operations.

Not only does the name Cheo Reo apply to a tiny village; it denotes an area in which there is a concentration of people unusual among the tribes. Villages about Cheo Reo are close together and many of them are accessible by secondary roads. As a rule tribal settlements are so small and so widely scattered that the missionary can reach only a few people at a time. The glow of spiritual response in one place does not readily awaken inquiry in others where distance breaks down the strength of community interests.

From Cheo Reo have come people of such outstanding abilities and accomplishments that they have won a reputation for this area as being the home of schoolteachers, nurses, military men and government administrators. Many in these professions serve in other districts as well as their own. The renown of judges from this section is almost legendary. The more that is learned of the influence this place has in tribes country the more it is evident that the Holy Spirit guided the Mission in its decision.

But this frontier outpost is steeped in heathen practices. Occasionally one of the more enlightened leaders will question the power which the sorcerer has over the people, but such protests have been lost because they knew of no one else to whom they might turn. Now is the crisis. Light has come to Cheo Reo. Let all who know the Lord join in prevailing prayer that the converts who will be won shall become as a city set on a hill. A life-giving influence will then emanate from this center.

W. E. EVANS

A Jarai tribeswoman, Cheo Reo

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